The following claims are presented for examination:

1. (Currently Amended) An apparatus comprising a receiver, wherein:

said receiver has three degrees of freedom that enable said receiver to move in three different ways about three different axes, wherein axes of said three degrees of freedom intersect **at a point that is located within the receiver**; and

said receiver receives an end effector, wherein said end effector removably couples to said receiver.

2. (Original) The apparatus of claim 1 further comprising said end effector, wherein said end effector comprises a catheter.

3. (Original) The apparatus of claim 1 wherein two of said three degrees of freedom are rotational and one of said three degrees of freedom is translational.

4. (Original) The apparatus of claim 1 further comprising pseudo skin, wherein said receiver is disposed beneath said pseudo skin.

5. (Previously Presented) The apparatus of claim 4 further comprising said end effector, wherein said pseudo skin lies between said end effector and said receiver, and wherein to simulate a vascular access procedure, said end effector is inserted through an opening in said pseudo skin to couple with said receiver.

6. (Original) The apparatus of claim 1 further comprising:

a plurality of sensors, wherein said sensors:

monitor movement of said receiver with respect to said degrees of freedom, wherein said movement is indicative of the position and orientation of said end effector; and

generate signals indicative of said monitored movement; and

a data processing system, wherein said data processing system receives signals generated by said sensors.

7. (Original) The apparatus of claim 6 and further wherein said data processing system determines a position and orientation of said end effector based on said received signals.

8. (Original) The apparatus of claim 1 wherein said receiver comprises a force-feedback assembly, wherein said force-feedback assembly generates a resistance to movement of said end effector.

9. (Original) The apparatus of claim 8 wherein said force-feedback assembly comprises a motor.

10. (Currently Amended) ~~An~~ **The** apparatus **of claim 1 further** comprising**[[:]]** ~~an end effector; and~~ a movable member, wherein:

said end effector reversibly couples to said movable member to simulate a vascular access procedure; and

said movable member moves along a linear path in response to manipulation of said end effector.

11. (Original) The apparatus of claim 10 wherein said movable member is coupled to a cable.

12. (Original) The apparatus of claim 11 wherein said cable is coupled to a motor.

13. (Original) The apparatus of claim 12 wherein, responsive to a control signal, said motor generates a resistance to movement of said movable member.

14. (Original) The apparatus of claim 11 further comprising a plurality of pulleys disposed on a frame, wherein:

said pulleys engage said cable; and

said pulleys are arranged so that a tension in said cable aligns with said linear path along which said movable member moves.

15. (Original) The apparatus of claim 11 wherein said movable member comprises a pulley, wherein said movable member is coupled to said cable via said pulley.

16. (Original) The apparatus of claim 10 wherein said movable member comprises a magnet, and wherein said end effector couples to said movable member via said magnet.

17. (Original) The apparatus of claim 10 further comprising a housing, wherein said movable member is disposed within said housing and said end effector is disposed outside of said housing.

18. (Original) The apparatus of claim 17 further comprising pseudo skin, wherein said pseudo skin is substantially co-planar with a surface of said housing.

19. (Currently Amended) An apparatus comprising a receiver for an end effector, wherein said receiver comprises:

a frame;

an arrangement for providing two orthogonal axes of rotation for said frame, wherein said frame is coupled to said arrangement; and

a movable member, wherein:

said movable member receives an end effector during a vascular access procedure;

said movable member moves along a linear path in a region defined by said frame; and

said linear path intersects said two orthogonal axes of rotation of said frame **at a point that is positioned in said frame**.

20. (Original) The apparatus of claim 19 further comprising a force-feedback assembly, wherein said force-feedback assembly is coupled to said movable member, and wherein said force-feedback assembly imparts a force that resists forward motion of said movable member by said end effector.

21. (Original) The apparatus of claim 20 wherein said force-feedback assembly comprises:

a motor; and

a cable, wherein said cable is coupled to said motor.

22. (Original) The apparatus of claim 21 wherein said movable member includes a rolling-contact element, wherein said cable is coupled to said rolling-contact element.

23. (Original) The apparatus of claim 21 further comprising a counterbalance, wherein said counterbalance is coupled to said frame.

24. (Currently Amended) ~~An~~ **The** apparatus **of claim 19 further** comprising**[[:]]** pseudo skin**[[;]]** ~~and a receiver for coupling to an end effector~~, wherein:

~~a magnetic force is used for coupling said end effector to said receiver;~~

said receiver is disposed beneath and at least partially covered by said pseudo skin;

and said receiver has no offset degrees of freedom.

25. - 30. (Canceled)

31. (Currently Amendedl) The apparatus of claim **[[**24**]] 19** wherein said receiver is gravitationally balanced.

32. (Currently Amended) The apparatus of claim 24 further comprising said end effector, wherein, until coupled to said receiver by a user **to begin simulation of a vascular access technique**, said end effector is disposed above said pseudo skin.

33. – 38. (Canceled)